



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Meeting Minutes 03/20/2006

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM, COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
 3/20/06

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*	Fey*	Dunn*	O'Neill*	Mahoney*
DeCoursey*	Connors	Simmons*	Bayer*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst	Ronan*	
Ferrara*	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman*	Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: School Superintendent Nate Levenson, School Committee Members Jeff Theilman (Chair), Shawn Garbally, Paul Schlichtman, Susanne Owayda, Marty Thrope, Susan Lovelace; Alex Candelas

MINUTES of 3/8/06 meeting were accepted as corrected. Unanimous.

BUD 17b POLICE: Community Safety SubCom (Simmons) reported that the department is budgeted for 3 Capt, 8 Lt, 9 Sgt, 42 Patrol with one vacancy (Sgt). Also 1 injured & 2 in academy. Overtime was under control until the recent school incident. A reserve transfer will probably not be needed. VOTED \$5,247,987. Unanimous.

BUD 19 EDUCATION: Theilman introduced Levenson who walked the FinCom through his handout. His budget adheres to the override guidelines even though the revenue assumptions now seem optimistic. In addition he expects 8% grant decrease. The School Committee plans to vote on it 3/28. He reviewed the 7 areas to which he wants to shift funds: ELL, SPED, Reading, Math & ELA, Teacher Leadership, Health-wellness-counseling. He would shift these funds from various current leadership positions, grants, transportation. This budget was developed "zero base" with a review of invoices. FinCom members complimented Levenson on his budget which provided interesting weekend reading for several. Members asked many questions. The contribution of AYCC will be paid by schools. He is working to stem the bleeding to Minuteman by selling AHS to 8th graders. The "new" payroll position which was agreed some time ago, is a cost transfer from Personnel to Education.

ART 52 & 53 SPED FUNDING: Levenson is still working w/ Manager & Town Counsel to decide on best way to create a reserve fund to buffer the uncertainties in this area. Tosti suggested an annual warrant article.

ART 65 ALTERNATIVES REGARDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROGRAM: Stratton, Thompson, AHS renovation is unlikely to be reimbursed by State. Levenson would like to renovate these buildings starting with technology upgrades within the capital plan.

BUD 17d SUPPORT: Community Safety SubCom (Simmons) recommended the budget as printed. They will inquire about dispatch backup, a possible regionalization benefit. VOTED \$645,355. Unanimous.

BUD18a INSPECTION: Community Safety SubCom (Simmons) recommended the budget as printed. VOTED \$324,790. Unanimous.

BUD 18b STREET LIGHTS: This budget has a large increase. The SubCom will inquire how the FY06 expenditures are going & will request details about how the budget was built.

COMMITTEE: Town Manager, Town Counsel, on 3/22. ART 24 on 3/27. The House budget bill is due out of committee on 4/12. May require budget adjustments.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: 78,590.66 (163,590.66)

Peter B Howard Secretary 3/21/06 Revised 3/22/06.

cc Selectmen, FinCom Members, Town Manager, Library File, Town Web Site FinCom Web Site